

**CORNELL-DUBILIER ELECTRONICS
SOUTH PLAINFIELD/MIDDLESEX COUNTY/NEW JERSEY**

BACKGROUND:

The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site (Site) is located in a mixed industrial/residential area of South Plainfield, New Jersey, and is bounded on the east by the Bound Brook. The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Company operated at the Site from 1936 to 1962 manufacturing electronic components, including capacitors. It is reported that Cornell-Dubilier deposited polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated materials and other hazardous substances directly onto Site soils. The Site is currently known as the Hamilton Industrial Park and is occupied by approximately 15 businesses. The Site was proposed for the NPL in September of 1997.

PCBs have been detected on-site in soils and in building interiors. PCBs have been detected off-site in the surface water and sediment of the Bound Brook and in the soil of residential properties in the vicinity of the Site.

ISSUES:

High levels of PCBs were detected in fish collected from water bodies downstream of the Site.

PCBs present in the interiors of on-site commercial and industrial buildings pose a health threat to building occupants.

PCBs have been detected in surface soils in the residential community surrounding the Site.

New Market Pond was dredged by Piscataway in the mid 1980's. The material removed from the pond was sold locally as topsoil and may contain hazardous constituents. The location of this material is not known at this time.

CURRENT STATUS:

A Unilateral Administrative Order issued to the owner of the industrial park in March 1997 required that a removal action be performed to stabilize the Site and mitigate the threat of migration of contaminants off-site. To date, the Site has been secured, driveways and parking areas have been paved and drainage controls have been installed. The removal action will be complete when the Site Summary Report documenting compliance with the terms of the Order is completed.

A study has been conducted to assess the impacts of contamination of the Bound Brook on human health and the environment. Surface water, sediment and biota samples were collected and analyzed for contaminants of concern including PCBs. Edible fish samples throughout the study area were found to contain elevated levels of PCBs. In response to EPA's findings the

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection issued an interim fish consumption advisory for the Bound Brook. Additional edible fish samples were collected downstream of New Market Pond and in Spring Lake in August 1997. A report documenting the findings of this study is expected in April 1998.

Negotiations with the PRPs for a removal action to address contamination in on-site buildings have been unsuccessful to date. The Agency's position in these negotiations has been weak because a release to the environment from the building has not been documented, as such the Agency has no authority to require cleanup under CERCLA. Violations of the Toxic Substance Control Act were documented in an inspection conducted at the facility on March 4, 1998. The threat of enforcement action under TSCA will be used as leverage in negotiating cleanup of the buildings.

Surface soil samples collected from residential properties located near the Site in June 1997 were found to contain low levels of PCBs. No immediate health threats are associated with exposure to PCBs at these levels, however, this sampling was not sufficient to adequately characterize contamination at these properties. Approximately 20 additional soil samples were collected from each of sixteen residential properties in October 1997. Interior dust samples were also collected from twelve of these homes at the request of the homeowners. The results of this sampling have been received and are being evaluated to determine if a threat to public health exists.

PCBs were not detected in sediment samples collected from New Market Pond by Piscataway prior to initiation of the dredging project. It is not known if these samples were representative of the material removed from the pond. Interviews with the parties involved confirmed that material removed from the pond was sold locally as topsoil. The location and chemical composition of this material has not been determined.

The Agency has completed the PRP Search. It is anticipated that General Notice Letters containing an Administrative Consent Order and Statement of Work for the PRPs to conduct or fund the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study will be issued within the next several weeks.

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS:

State Assemblyman Bob Smith and Congressman Bob Franks have made inquiries regarding the Site in the past.

Local media follows Site developments and progress closely.